

REMARKS

A. Status of Claims

Claims 1 – 35 are pending in the application.

B. Summary Of Office Action

The Examiner has rejected pending claims 1 – 3, 5-16, 18-27, and 29-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,605 to Vance in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,872,841 to King. The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 17, and 28 as being unpatentable over Vance in view of King and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,577,949 to Robinson.

C. Response

The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections and requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Neither of the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the elements of independent claims 1, 12, 20 or 25, or any of the claims that depend from them. Each of independent claims 1, 12, 20 and 25 require collecting identity and key information from participants at a meeting using one or more "first personal area networks" and distributing permissions over one or more "second personal area networks", where the permissions are represented using a digital signature. Thus, each of the claims require exploitation of physical proximity to preserve security of information to be distributed.

Vance discloses a scheduler, for scheduling conference calls, that can be accessed by users via a communications network such as the Internet. Vance does not disclose communicating, let alone delegating permissions represented using a digital signature, over a personal area network. King discloses a calendar system within a telephone system that includes an interface for obtaining information from a calling party; calendar information for a called

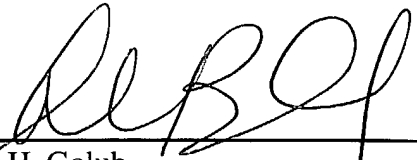
party; and an agent module that searches the calendar of the called party to determine an available slot for a call between the two parties. Like Vance, King does not disclose communicating, let alone delegating permissions represented using a digital signature, over a personal area network; instead, King discloses an agent module (i.e., hardware and/or software) collects user identity information over telephone.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the pending rejections and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 215-963-5091 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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